



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION  
COOKEVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OFFICE**

**DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL**

**1221 SOUTH WILLOW AVENUE**

**COOKEVILLE, TN 38506**

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September 23, 2011

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

**Return Receipt Requested**

**Receipt # 91 7108 2133 3939 2428 0898**

Mr. Ronnie Kelly, Director  
Dept. of Water Quality Control  
City of Cookeville  
P.O. Box 998  
Cookeville, TN 38506

**Re: Compliance Evaluation Inspection  
Cookeville Water Treatment Plant  
Individual NPDES # TN0005231 – Permit Expires September 29, 2013  
Receiving Waters: Alum Lick Branch (Center Hill Lake), Putnam County, TN**

Dear Mr. Kelly:

On September 8, 2011 personnel from the Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control (WPC) conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection at the Cookeville Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate compliance with an individual NPDES permit for WTP filter backwash and sedimentation basin discharge and to determine the reliability of data being submitted on Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs). The discharge is to Alum Lick Branch at mile 1.0 (Center Hill Lake) to Mine Lick Creek at mile 4.2 (Center Hill Lake).

**Permit**

The Cookeville WTP is operating under individual NPDES Permit No. TN0005231. Coverage under this permit became effective on November 1, 2008, and will expire on September 29, 2013. The permit requires that monthly analytical sampling of the discharge water be conducted for certain parameters. The results of these analyses are to be recorded and submitted to the Division via monthly DMRs.

**Facility**

Filter backwash water, pump cooling water and finished water from the lab sink are normally discharged to the "old lagoon" behind the WTP. The contents of the old lagoon are then pumped to three "new" lagoons for solids settling prior to discharge to Alum Lick Branch (Center Hill Lake). At the time of inspection two of the new lagoons were in the process of sludge removal so only one was being used. The water being discharged from the outfall at the time of the inspection was clear.

### Laboratory Review and Recommendations

Records of monthly analytical sampling of the discharge water are being maintained at the WTP and were readily available for review. The records were found to be consistent with the data submitted on the DMRs. The DMRs are promptly sent to the Nashville Central Office. The laboratory and associated equipment and instruments were well-maintained and organized.

The following laboratory technique corrections should be implemented:

- Effluent should not be used for the blank when zeroing colorimeter for iron determination.
- Standard method (2540 F) should be reviewed and implemented in the determination of settleable solids.

We extend our thanks to Mr. Bill Clemons and Mr. Roger Phillips for their time and courtesy during the inspection. If you have any questions, please contact me at (931) 432-4015 or by e-mail at [Brian.Mayo@tn.gov](mailto:Brian.Mayo@tn.gov).

Sincerely,



Brian Mayo  
Division of Water Pollution Control  
Cookeville Environmental Field Office

CC: Mr. Patrick Parker, WPC Nashville Central Office, Enforcement & Compliance Mgr (*via e-mail*)  
Mr. Bill Hall, WPC Cookeville EFO, Program Manager (*via e-mail*)  
Mr. Johnny Walker, DWS Cookeville EFO, Program Manager (*via e-mail*)  
WPC EFO File (Putnam Co.)

Enclosure: EPA 3560 Form